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General Lyles

Agile Acquisition - Commander envisions better support to America's warfighters

by Gen Lester L. Lyles, Commander, Air Force Materiel Command

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio (AFMCNS) — Launching Agile Acquisition provides an exciting opportunity for all of us in the business of developing, acquiring, testing, and sustaining the weapon systems our Air Force uses to defend America's freedom!

Agile Acquisition opens the door for real, meaningful change; change that will enable us do our jobs better and, most importantly, provide better support for our customers: this nation's warfighters.

The "Lightning Bolts" that implement this new way of doing business give us the tools we need to make these changes. They will touch the entire Air Force, especially through Lightning Bolt #5, which will transform the services contracts that affect every one of us. They will focus our acquisition efforts and, at the same time, reinforce our other initiatives to transform and improve the services and products we provide.

In particular, Enterprise Management in AFMC ties in perfectly with Agile Acquisition. Enterprise Management shatters stovepipes!

It gives individual managers the responsibility and authority to look at broader concepts and issues affecting programs that are different. It gives warfighters a single point of contact to access the acquisition process on a system or program. These two efforts will work together to take us where we need to go to keep America's warfighters the most powerful and respected force in the world.

We must make sure we're developing, finding, adapting and delivering the best mix of capabilities to our air and space warriors in the minimum amount of time. To do that, we're taking a close look at everything we do across the full acquisition spectrum, from the conception of a new weapon system right on through to how we maintain and sustain it after it's fielded. Enterprise Management makes AFMC well prepared for doing this analysis and implementing the changes we need.

The changes Agile Acquisition will demand are revolutionary! That's as it should be.

Our world, and our mission, have changed radically in the past few months. We must change with it to ensure we provide the warfighter a responsive and effective acquisition system that meets his changing needs.

Agile Acquisition has my full support and commitment. To be successful, it must have yours.

I trust you will all give it your highest level of attention and the full force of your tremendous creativity, expertise and dedication. Our future depends on it! The future of our nation, and the success and safety of our fighting forces hinge on our ability to do what must be done.

Let me make one thing perfectly clear. This is not change for change's sake. We're talking about breaking down barriers and eliminating institutional inertia, rules and processes that rob people of creative spirit or don't add value.

It's imperative that we provide absolutely the best and newest capabilities to our fighters in the shortest time possible. We can't settle for providing today's technology tomorrow. We must, and we will, find ways to provide tomorrow's technology today!

The stakes are high. Failure is not an option.

We have support from Air Force leadership to make the changes we need to make. Lightning Bolts 2002 give us the tools to make those changes. And, most importantly, we have the people with the ability to make all this happen in our dedicated acquisition worker force throughout the Air Force. @